

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 12, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 9, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 909

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

February 17, 2011

An act to add Article 11.6 (commencing with Section 49566) to Chapter 9 of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to pupil nutrition.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 909, as amended, Alejo. Pupil nutrition: Farm to School Program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to ensure that the nutrition levels of meals served to schoolage children pursuant to the federal National School Lunch Act be of the highest quality and greatest nutritional value possible.

This bill would authorize a school district to submit an application to the State Department of Education for funding under the Farm to School Program if 80% of the school district's expenditure for fresh produce for use in its food service program is derived from California produce, as defined. The bill would require the State Department of Education to reimburse a school district that purchases California produce in the prescribed quantity *of* \$0.05 for every meal the district serves as part of the federal National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs, *or both*. The bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to consult with the State Department of Education for the purpose of assisting school districts with meeting the California produce

requirement; *and, at a minimum*, identify the seasons, sources, and suppliers of California produce; and help small farmers collaborate with one another to supply the large quantities of produce demanded by school districts. The bill would require the State Department of Education to develop strategies for school districts that would result in more California produce use in school meal programs. The bill would authorize the State Board of Education to adopt any rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Article 11.6 (commencing with Section 49566)
2 is added to Chapter 9 of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

4
5 Article 11.6. Farm to School Program

6
7 49566. (a) If 80 percent of a school district's expenditure for
8 fresh produce for use in its food service program is derived from
9 California produce, the school district may submit an application
10 to the department for funding under the Farm to School Program.
11 The school district shall certify in the application that it has
12 complied with the requirements of this section.

13 (b) The department shall reimburse an eligible school district
14 five cents (\$0.05) for every meal the district serves as part of the
15 federal National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs, *or*
16 *both*.

17 (c) A school district shall expend the funds received pursuant
18 to this section to purchase California produce.

19 49566.1. For the purpose of implementing this article, the
20 department may accept contributions of money and assistance
21 from any public or private source and agree to conditions placed
22 on the contributions if those conditions are not inconsistent with
23 the duties of the department.

24 49566.2. The Department of Food and Agriculture shall consult
25 with the department for the purpose of assisting school districts
26 with meeting the requirement set forth in Section 49566 and shall
27 do all of the following, *at a minimum*, to provide that assistance:

1 (a) Identify the seasons, sources, and suppliers of California
2 produce.

3 (b) Help small farmers collaborate with one another to supply
4 the large quantities of California produce demanded by school
5 districts.

6 49566.3. The department shall develop strategies for school
7 districts, including, *but not limited to*, forward contracting and
8 negotiating competitive prices, that would result in more California
9 produce use in school meal programs.

10 49566.4. The state board may adopt any rules and regulations
11 necessary for the implementation of this article.

12 49566.5. For purposes of this article, “California produce”
13 means fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in California, ~~as defined~~
14 ~~in Section 43100 of the Food and Agricultural Code.~~